

## BRIEFER NOTES

### **Potentilla tridentata on Schunemunk Mountain**

A small, and not very thrifty looking stand of *Potentilla tridentata*, on the south end of Schunemunk Mountain, in Orange County, N. Y., was called to the attention of the writer, by Mr. Louis W. Anderson, of Elizabeth, N. J., while we were on a walk of the New York Section of the Green Mountain Club led by Mr. H. W. Gorham. There were scarcely a dozen plants, in all. They grew in crevices in the conglomerate ledges on the summit of Schunemunk, The elevation of the small colony was about 1380 feet.

I had never seen *Potentilla tridentata* on Schunemunk before, although its highest point, 1695 feet, is higher than the stand of the plant on Mount Beacon, 1640 feet, east of the Hudson, and about seven miles east of Schunemunk. After noting the occurrence on the south end of the mountain, we searched other likely points, up to the highest, but found no more. The higher points on the north end have been severely burned over many times, and probably original growth has been destroyed, and the open coarse conglomerate ledges now bear little but a great variety of interesting lichens, including the boreal lichens *Cetraria islandica*, var. *crispa* and *Stereocaulon paschale*, other glacial relicts probably.

This adds another station for this interesting northern plant, extending the number of boreal islands sustaining it from the Taconics and Catskills along the higher Appalachians to northern Georgia. The Schunemunk *Potentilla* stand is very scanty but may persist if it escapes intense burning, and it may survive destruction by fire as there is little else on its location to burn but short grass.

R. H. T.

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### **Marchantia polymorpha after forest fires**

An interesting botanical phenomenon observed by the writer, during the past autumn, on the south end of Kittatiny Mountain, in Warren County, N. J., is the appearance there of large, widely spreading mats of the liverwort, *Marchantia polymorpha*, upon thin soil, barely covering the ledges, after an

almost complete destruction of the previous vegetation by an extensive forest fire in the preceding autumn. About 3,000 acres of the top of the mountain was burned over in windy, dry weather, after a long drought and about every living thing was destroyed. Trees and shrubs with a few exceptions, were wiped out over considerable patches of thin soil. Soon after the fire, in October, 1930, the writer noted that seedlings of *Corydalis sempervirens* and *Geranium carolinianum* were coming up and a year later they were well re-established. Dense stands of a tall withered herb resembling an *Amaranthus* or an *Acnida*, not determined; *Epilobium angustifolium*, several asters, a goldenrod or two and the bracken fern, appeared over the burning this year. But where there were still open spaces of burned humus, and even in spots somewhat shaded by the tall thick herbaceous growth, the ground was covered with mats of the strongly lobate thalli of *Marchantia polymorpha*. In October, the dense tiny forests of the archegonial stalks, like umbrella ribs without a cover, and the less conspicuous but equally numerous antheridial stalks, made a pretty sight. I have seen *Marchantia* following a forest fire on another site, on Long Mountain in the Harriman State Park, where it persisted in a large area for two or three years but has lessened in numbers since taller herbaceous and shrubby vegetation and tree sprouts have come back. What is the reason why *Marchantia* likes such burned over areas? It probably helps to renew the humus and prepare the soil again for other plants.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

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### The local herbarium, New York Botanical Garden

This local herbarium, maintained as a special one, covers the "field" of the Torrey Botanical Club, that is the region within a radius of 150 miles of New York City. Within the past year it has been entirely reorganized, and the very extensive collections are now available for study and reference. Fortunately through the munificence of the late W. C. Ferguson of Brooklyn it has been possible to arrange this collection in modern insect proof and dust proof steel cases; these have been installed in the north wing, main floor, of the Museum Building.

The local herbarium has been more than doubled in size during the past year through the accessioning and mounting of the very large E. P. Bicknell herbarium, presented by Mrs. Bicknell several years ago; the W. C. Ferguson herbarium of Long Island plants, estimated to contain about 10,000 specimens, bequeathed to the Garden in 1930; the K. K. Mackenzie herbarium, presented, 1931, particularly rich in material from northern New Jersey; the herbarium of the late Waldron de Witt Miller, presented, 1931, and extensive recent collections presented by Mr. H. M. Moldenke. This collection, particularly important to those interested in the study of our local flora, now contains approximately 50,000 mounted specimens. It is available to any qualified individual who is interested in field work in botany, or in identifying specimens collected from within the area covered by it. To make the local herbarium more usable, two copies of Taylor's "The Flora of the vicinity of New York: A Contribution to Plant Geography" were clipped and the individual entries were pasted on the specimen covers, the keys to species being pasted on the inside of the genus covers. Members of the Torrey Botanical Club, of the Biology Teachers Association, and others interested in this field are invited to make use of the excellent facilities that are now available at the Garden through the existence of this important assemblage of material.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Cope: Master Naturalist<sup>1</sup>**

The late Professor Cope was not a ranking botanist, although in early life he taught botany along with zoology at Haverford College. He was brought up on a country estate and worked summers on a farm; where, as at school, he early took to botany and became an enthusiastic and well informed amateur.

<sup>1</sup> *Cope: Master Naturalist*. The Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope With a Bibliography of his Writings Classified by Subject. A Study of the Pioneer and Foundation Periods of Vertebrate Paleontology in America. Henry Fairfield Osborn, with the co-operation of Helen Ann Warren and others. Illustrated with Drawings and Restorations by Charles R. Knight. 1931. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 740 pp. \$5.00.